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URBAN DISTRICT OF CLEVEDON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is little of significance to report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the past year. The new Food and Drugs Act has entailed much extra work for your Public Health Inspector, a summary of whose work is incorporated in this review.

An indifferent summer was followed by a very mild winter and no serious epidemic visited us, whooping cough being the only prevalent disease which led to over 120 cases, practically all in the last quarter. These were generally mild, although it falls to be reported that in some cases parents and grandparents contracted this disease. Though poliomyelitis was present in the County we suffered no cases. Diptheria was completely absent and influenza was not severe. Full details of these appear in the statistical tables. The average age at death at 72.5 years is high, but it would appear from the corrected Death Rate that the comparability factor for deaths (0.63) is still too low for a population which is obviously altering in composition.

The provision of housing accommodation continues to dominate the public health situation in spite of considerable building by Local Authority and private enterprise. It is hoped that some of the older properties can still be restored to useful life under the new Housing Acts.

A survey of premises affected by the Food and Drugs Acts revealed little of serious defects and purveyors and shopkeepers were alive to the necessity of putting their properties in order. The Slaughterhouse is well conducted, ice cream vendors are alive to the potential danger of their product and milk suppliers and dairies are generally well conducted. The sewage system presents problems owing to the increased load from new building, but has so far stood up to the demands made upon it.

The Health Service functions satisfactorily in all its local activities:- the Hospital and its Clinics, the Maternity Homes, Ambulance and Nursing services. The latter is especially valuable in caring for the sick in their homes who would otherwise have to be accommodated in the overcrowded beds in hospital.

It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the ready help and co-operation received from my colleagues, from your officers and staff, from the County and Bristol Health Authorities, and

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

G. Macleod.

25th May, 1957.

STATISTICS

Area of District	3464 acres
Population (mid year estimate)	9670
Number of inhabited houses and flats	4200
Rateable value	£141,246.
Sum represented by 1d rate	£560.19.11d.
Comparability Factors - For births	1.20
For deaths	0.63

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	55	73	128
Illegitimate	5	2	7
			135.

Birth Rate per 1000
of population (corrected) 16.8

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	0	3

Still Birth Rate per 1000
live and still births 21.7

81.8 of the local births were at Maternity Homes.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	67	86	153

Death Rate per 1000 of
population (corrected) 9.9

Average age at death 72.5 years

Death of infant under one year - 1
(Of Intracranial haemorrhage at two days)

Some of the principal causes of death were:-

Cancer of the Lung	...	...	1 woman
Cancer of other regions	...	...	27
Coronary Disease of the Heart	...	...	38
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	18
Cerebral Vascular Disease	...	...	31
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	5
Influenza	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2

<u>Notifiable Diseases</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Measles	2	0	0
Pneumonia	3	2	2
Whooping Cough	123	0	0
Dysentery	2	0	0
Food Poisoning	3	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	6	0	0

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	
15 - 24	1	0	0	Nil
25 - 44	1	2	0	1 (female)
	2	2	0	1

Deaths - 1 male (Pulmonary) age 52.

Sanitation

There has been no alteration in the arrangements made by the Cleansing Department as reported for 1955. A piped water supply has been extended to nine houses in the Nortons Wood area: The public supply, now managed by the Bristol Waterworks Co., is of ample quantity and proven quality.

Housing

Much has been done during the year to satisfy the recurring demands for housing accommodation by new entrants to the town, and Clevedon young people when marrying. The considerable number of basement dwellings in the town constitutes a permanent problem; with the passing of the years these properties tend to deteriorate so that in many cases they are no longer remediable at an economic outlay and must ultimately be condemned as unfit for human habitation. Where in new houses deviation from accepted building principles in the quest for economy has been pursued, failure and disappointment have followed and further capital outlay occurred.

	<u>Houses erected during year</u>	<u>Houses in course of erection</u>
By Local Authority	20	37
By Private Enterprise	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
Totals	34	51

Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 - 31st December, 1956.

<u>By Local Authority</u>	<u>By Private Enterprise</u>
276	145

Improvement grants under Housing Act, 1949 - 54.

	<u>Applications</u>	<u>No. of dwellings</u>	<u>Approved Apps: No:</u>	<u>No. of dwellings</u>
31. 7.49 to 31.12.55	9	9	6	6
During 1956	10	10	10	10
Average cost per dwelling approved	-	£616.		
Average rent fixed per annum exclusive	-	£90.		
Amount of Grant payable by Local Authority		50%		

No slum clearance area has been dealt with during the year. Twenty prefabs are still in occupation and there were 121 applicants on the Housing List at the end of the year - 87 for houses and 34 for flats for elderly people.

FOOD

- No. of food premises in the area -
Food Shops 65
Hotels 28
Cafes 10
Factories 1
- No. of premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955 Nil.
No. of Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations - 2
- No. of inspections of Food Premises - 80. Standard generally very good.
- General meeting of all purveyors was held at which regulations were explained and commented upon.
- Condemned food disposed of in Council tip or to Merchants in Bristol.
- No action called for.
- No premises registered under Ice Cream Regulations 1947 - 52.
- Most owners have already taken steps to conform to regulations already explained, and only minor contraventions such as lack of nail brushes and notices to wash hands etc.

In two cases only may legal action be necessary to bring conditions up to required standard.

MILK

(a)	No. of registered distributors	...	...	5
(b)	No. of registered dairy premises	...	...	3
(c)	No. of licensed dealers of designated milk			5
(d)	No. of supplementary licenses to distributors from outside the District	...	...	1

<u>Sampling</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
T.T.	45	36	9
Pasteurised	24	23	1
Sterilized	2	2	-

ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture and retail	1
" " " " only	0
" " " retail	22

Slaughterhouse

The only one in the District, which is owned by the Local Authority, is let to a private slaughterman. There are no others and no horses are slaughtered here. There are no knackers yards.

Meat Inspection

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
No. killed	53	-	11	401	84
No. inspected	53	-	11	401	84
Carcases part of which was condemned for diseases other than tuberculosis or cysticercus	12	-	-	4	-
Percentage so affected	22%	-	-	1%	-

Tuberculosis

Part carcase	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage	1.9%	-	-	-	-
Cysticercus	0	0	0	0	0
Weight (in lbs.) of meat condemned for Tuberculosis	14	-	-	-	-
Other disease	118	-	-	10	-
Totals	132	-	-	10	-

Camping Sites

Number for which licences have been issued - 9.
Maximum number per acre - Caravans 20 ft. apart
Tents - 10 ft. "

Public Swimming Baths

The Marine Lake owned by the Local Authority is the only one in the District. It is filled at spring tides from the Bristol Channel, and, as this water is already heavily contaminated, purification can only be looked for as a result of sedimentation which takes time and the effect of the ultra-violet rays of the sun which are fitful.

Public Health Staff

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Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

J. Topham, A.M.I. Mun.E., M.I.H.E., M.R. San.I.,
Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.